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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Nickel Wire Screen Production at Tewa-Neustadt

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DO NOT CIRCULATE

1. Tewa-Neustadt is now composed of three different plants:

- a. Werk I, the Tewa-Neustadt plant;
- b. Werk II, the Tewa-Graefenthal plant;
- c. Werk III, the former reed plant of Karl Kuefner, Neustadt.

2. [REDACTED] Tewa has 79 looms in operation for the production of nickel wire screen No. 231 in Werk I. Fifteen looms are in operation for the same purpose in Werk II. Fifteen additional looms in the apprentice shop of Werk I are not engaged in the nickel wire screen production program; they are either empty or are being used for the production of coarse-size screen for training purposes.

3. The current Russian production order for nickel screen No. 231 stipulates that 75,000 square meters are to be produced by Werke I and II during the period [REDACTED] Until now, 1952 production has been up to quota. The following table shows the production of Werke I and II during the first quarter of 1952:

20,390 square meters of first-quality screen
two 50-meter rolls of second-quality screen

11,098 square meters of first quality screen
one 52-meter roll of second-quality screen

4. The screen produced [REDACTED] was not shipped in the usual way, but remained in Werk I until the latter part [REDACTED] The nitric acid test was applied to a 5-centimeter length cut from every roll of screen. Shipment took place according to the following schedule:

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Shipment of 17 Partien (a Partie or lot consists of 16 boxes, each containing 50 square meters of screen on the average), i.e. about 13,600 square meters;

Shipment of 9 Partien, i.e. about 7,200 square meters;

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Shipment of about 10,700 square meters, i.e. the remainder of [REDACTED]

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The third of the above-mentioned shipments went to Aue for reasons not known [REDACTED] however, that it was shipped from Aue to its usual final destination. The third shipment included, in addition to the standard screen of first and second qualities, 985 meters of first-quality screen, produced in March 1952, consisting of pieces shorter than 5 meters, and about 1,000 meters taken from the stored reject screen.

5. The present average reject rate is about three percent of the total output. This is true and will probably remain true under normal conditions. However, the hiring of new, untrained personnel tends to increase the reject rate somewhat. The rate is now about 5.5 percent because of the hiring of new personnel in numbers for the operation of the increased number of looms. At present, about 5,000 square meters of reject screen are stored in Werk I; it consists of screen which was disqualified because it contains too many knots, wide places (Gassen), breaks, etc., or because it does not have the prescribed minimum length.
6. The technical specifications for nickel wire screen No. 231 have not been changed since 1951. Specifically, introduction of the new method of testing with the aid of nitric acid did not change the technical specifications. This new testing method is still being applied rigorously to a 5-centimeter length from every roll of finished screen. The test is carried out by a pharmacist from Neustadt, under the supervision of Ukhanov, of the Soviet Reparations Division in Erfurt, assisted by a new, unidentified Russian who came to Tewa from Wismut AG. When the test samples are put into nitric acid for a period of three minutes, the acid attacks the screen in different degrees at different spots. The tests carried out by the Russians have so far proved inconclusive both as to the reasons for and the possible remedy of this action of the acid. Tewa technicians made nitric acid tests of their own, without Russian supervision, and found that the acid mainly attacks the warp wires, whereas it has hardly any effect on the woof wires. They therefore believe that the action of the acid is conditioned by the varying thicknesses of the warp wires, whereas woof wires with their more uniform thicknesses will cause more uniform action of the acid.
7. Construction of a new weaving shop in Werk I, as well as expansion of the reed plant, are still in their initial stages. It is nevertheless expected that the construction work will be completed by 31 July 1952. No production is scheduled for the month of August 1952, which will be spent reorganizing the plant for the purpose of concentrating the entire production of nickel wire screen in Werk I. The looms from Werk II will be transferred to Werk I during this period. There are no indications that the looms of Baderschneider und Lenzner will also be transferred.

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